

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-20 are currently pending. Claims 11 and 16-20 are amended, support for which is found in at least paragraph [0034] and Figs. 1 and 7 of the application. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 13 was objected to; and Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. 5,559,938 (Van Roekel) in view of U.S. 2003/0220735 (Nimura).

With regard to the objection to Claim 3, the Office Action asserted that Claim 13 depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. However, as recited in this Amendment and in the Amendment filed on April 7, 2006, Claim 13 depends from Claim 11. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that no correction is necessary because Claim 13 already properly depends from Claim 11. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 13 be withdrawn.

As to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), that rejection is respectfully traversed in view of amended Claim 11. Claim 11 recites a map displaying apparatus that obtains map data including curved-point coordinate information and name information of a traffic route for displaying the traffic route, which is transmitted from a map-data distributing server via a network, and displays a map based on the obtained map data on a display screen.

The map displaying apparatus is amended to recite that when the character or symbol is rotated and displayed, the map-display-data generating unit employs a judgment-purpose pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying any single character or symbol in order to judge whether the character or symbol interferes with another character or symbol as a result of the rotation.

The Office Action indicates on page 3 that Van Roekel fails to describe curved-point coordinate information and name information of the traffic route to be displayed in the display area. For this feature, the Office Action relies on Nimura.

Nimura describes an on-board device 14 which can access updated map data through a network 52 so as to allow the on-board device 14 to search an updated route from the updated map data acquired through the network 52.¹ However, Nimura does not describe obtaining or displaying name information of the route which is searched or determining a display position of each character or symbol included in the name information.

Consequently, Nimura fails to describe “a map-display-data generating unit that determines a display position of each character or symbol included in a character/symbol string in the name information so that the character or the symbol is positioned along the traffic route without interfering with another character or symbol, generates map display data for displaying the character or the symbol at the determined display position, and when the character or symbol is rotated and displayed, a judgment-purpose pixel range that is larger than a pixel range for displaying any single character or symbol is employed to judge whether the character or symbol interferes with another character or symbol as a result of the rotation,” as recited in amended Claim 11. Therefore, Nimura fails to remedy the above-noted deficiency of Van Roekel.

Although directed at a different statutory class and/or varying in scope, each of amended Claims 16-20 shares in the above-noted features of amended Claim 11. Van Roekel and Nimura, when viewed individually or in combination, fail to describe the above-noted features. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 11-20 are allowable over the cited references by virtue of these features and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

¹ Nimura, paragraph [0048].

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

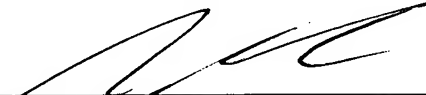
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